

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending prior to the amendments herein. Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 9-14 are therefore pending.

Election/Restriction

The Restriction Requirement requires restriction to one of the following two Examiner-designated inventions:

- Group I (Claims 1-8), drawn to a method; and
- Group II (Claims 9-14), drawn to a system/apparatus.

The Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group II, which the Examiner identifies as corresponding to Claims 9-14. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications.

Claim Amendments

Claim 9 has been amended to correct two obvious grammatical errors. The Applicants submit that these amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and that no new matter is added by these amendments.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

The Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending application of the present application's assignee: U.S. Patent App. Serial No. 10,782,697, filed February 18, 2004, entitled "METHOD OF WAFER PROCESSING WITH EDGE SEED LAYER REMOVAL".

Application No.: 10/676,895
Filing Date: September 20, 2003

Summary

The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-14 are in condition for examination on the merits. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 1/4/08

By: Adam Gilbert

Adam Gilbert
Registration No. 59,967
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

4706267
010308